

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ID
SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF GENERAL MURDANI AND TEAM

REF: STATE 188334

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING AUGUST 12 GENERAL MURDANI ACCEPTED DATE OF SEPTEMBER 15 FOR VISIT OF INDONESIAN MILITARY GROUP AND OUTLINED TO ME PROBABLE NATURE OF INDONESIAN REQUESTS. INDONESIAN INTEREST LIKELY CONCENTRATE ON COMMUNICATIONS, SHIPS, HELICOPTERS, SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT, RADAR AND POSSIBLY JET TRAINING CAPABILITY. END SUMMARY.
2. WHEN I CONVEYED TO GENERAL MURDANI IN MEETING AUGUST 12 SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL AND SUGGESTED DATE SEPTEMBER 15, HE READILY AGREED. NOTING THAT DATE WAS LATER THAN "SOME WOULD WISH", HE SAID IT WAS ACTUALLY MORE CONVENIENT IN TERMS AVOIDING CONFLICT WITH INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY AND IN PROVIDING MORE TIME FOR GOI PREPARATION FOR VISIT.
3. MURDANI SAID INDONESIAN GROUP WOULD NUMBER BETWEEN 9 AND 11 AND WOULD BE HEADED BY GENERAL SUPRAPTO WITH HIMSELF AS DEPUTY. TEAM WOULD HAVE OFFICERS PROFICIENT IN ENGLISH CAPABLE OF EXPLAINING INDONESIAN REQUIREMENTS, BACKED UP BY TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WHERE NECESSARY.

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4. DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING RE NATURE OF INDONESIAN

PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON MEETINGS. MURDANI SAID RESULT WOULD PROBABLY BE SINGLE LIST OF HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS WITH SOME ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM EARLIER LISTS AND OTHER REQUESTS BASED ON CAMP DAVID REFERENCE TO EQUIPMENT OUT OF INDOCHINA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LIST MAY INCLUDE MORE THAN U.S. CAN PROVIDE. INEVITABLY, HE SAID, EACH SERVICE WANTS TO "PUT IN EVERYTHING" BUT HE HAS MADE STRONG EFFORT TO CONFINE REQUESTS TO THAT WHICH IS MOST NEEDED IN PRESENT SITUATION. LIST WILL ALSO PLACE EMPHASIS ON WHAT MAY BE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE IN ORDER FILL GAP BEFORE ARRIVAL IN ONE TO THREE YEARS TIME OF OV-10 AIRCRAFT AND FRIGATES FROM HOLLAND.

5. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL ITEMS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION:

A. EQUIPMENT FOR INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS DOWN TO KODIM (COUNTY) LEVEL, SUPPLEMENTING EQUIPMENT ALREADY PROVIDED UNDER INDOCOM. MURDANI EMPHASIZED NEED FOR ADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS, PARTICULARLY TO REMOTE AREAS IN ORDER TO INSURE SATISFACTORY BUT NOT EXCESSIVE RESPONSE TO LOCAL DISTURBANCES AND INFILTRATION.

B. EQUIPMENT FOR PROTECTION AGAINST INFILTRATION. MURDANI REPEATED THAT INDONESIA SAW PRINCIPAL THREAT IN SMUGGLING BY SMALL VESSELS OF ARMS AND PEOPLE INTO REMOTE AREAS OF SUMATRA AND KALIMANTAN. IN THIS CONNECTION HE LISTED DE-TYPE SHIPS, SMALLER CRAFT, HELICOPTERS, ALBM-TROSS AIRCRAFT AND SURVEILLANCE RADAR. HE SAID THAT DES WERE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM AND THAT INDONESIA WOULD BE SATISFIED "IF WE GOT NOTHING ELSE FROM CAMP DAVID." HE SAID THEY FORESAW PROBLEMS IN SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL C-47S AND THAT ORION AIRCRAFT TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR THEIR NEEDS. THUS THEIR SELECTION OF ALBATROSS. RE RADAR, MURDANI POINTED OUT THAT EXCEPT FOR ONE SURVEILLANCE RADAR IN MALAYSIA AND NAVIGATIONAL RADAR IN SINGAPORE, THERE IS NO FRIENDLY COVERAGE OF WATERWAY BETWEEN SUMATRA AND KALIMANTAN. HE SUGGESTED THAT AN EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE RADAR SYSTEM IS NEEDED FOR THE NATUNA ISLANDS AREA.

C. ARMY EQUIPMENT. MURDANI DID NOT SPECIFY ANY EQUIPMENT IN THIS AREA EXCEPT TO SAY THAT HE HAD CUT DOWN ARMY REQUEST BY 80 PERCENT.

D. JET PLANE CAPABILITY: MURDANI EXPLAINED THAT SOME
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SENIOR OFFICERS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT INDONESIA COULD NOT CURRENTLY AFFORD TO GO INTO SUPERSONIC JET AIRCRAFT, NEVERTHELESS, BELIEVED INDONESIA SHOULD HAVE CADRE OF TRAINED AND QUALIFIED PILOTS FOR FUTURE REQUIREMENT. THIS COULD BE DONE BY ASSIGNING PILOTS TO OTHER AIR FORCES WITH SUPERSONIC CAPABILITY SUCH AS MALAYSIA OR IT COULD ALSO BE DONE BY ACQUISITION OF SMALL NUMBER SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. DECISION

NOT YET MADE TO INCLUDE THIS ON LIST FOR TEAM'S VISIT.

6. IN DISCUSSION OF INDOCHINA EQUIPMENT, I SAID I HOPED
INDONESIAN MILITARY UNDERSTOOD THAT EQUIPMENT MAY NOT BE IN
VERY GOOD SHAPE AND THAT FUNDS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR
REHABILITATION. MURDANI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND THAT
PRESIDENT FORD HAD MADE THIS CLEAR IN DISCUSSION WITH
PRESIDENT SUHARTO. HE WAS, NEVERTHELESS, WORRIED THAT
EXPECTATIONS AT THE LOWER LEVELS OF INDONESIAN MILITARY
WERE HIGH AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. INABILITY
TO PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT IN GOOD SHPE. MANY
OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN U.S. AND ARE AWARE OF ENORMOUS
CAPACITY AND RESOURCES AND DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY INDONESIA
WOULD BE REQUIRED TAKE CAST-OFF EQUIPMENT IN POOR CONDITION.
I SAID I SHARED THIS CONCERN AND, THEREFORE, BELIEVED IT
NECESSARY FOR FRANKEST KIND OF EXCHANGE DURING UPCOMING
WASHINGTON MEETINGS. IT WAS CLEAR THAT U.S. INTENTION WAS
TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO INDONESIA TO INSPECT AVAILABLE
EQUIPMENT. INDONESIA UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT
THAT WHICH THEY FIND UNSUITABLE. MURDANI SAID HE UNDER-
STOOD THIS BUT IF NONE PROVED SUITABLE, DISAPPOINTMENT
AT FAILING TO RECEIVE SATISFACTORY ITEMS IN FULFILLMENT
OF REQUEST WOULD BREED EQUAL DISAPPOINTMENT.

7. IN AUGUST 14 DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF USDLG, GENERAL
SOEMANTRI OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED
MURDANI'S DESCRIPTION OF GOI PREPARATIONS
FOR VISIT AND LIKELY MAKE-UP OF GOI SHOPPING LIST,
AS SET FORTH IN PARA 5 ABOVE.
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